



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

QUICK NOTES

Second Regular Session, 19th Congress

3rd Public Hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Chairperson: Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa

13 May 2024, Monday, 10 AM, Tolentino and Quezon Rooms, Senate

Re: Investigation on the Alleged PDEA leaks

Background

- The Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs will hold its third motu proprio public hearing on the alleged Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) leaks. The investigation is about the unverified documents on the supposed anti-illegal drug operations by PDEA back in 2012.
- While questions on the authenticity (and even its existence) of the PDEA documents still hound, Senator Dela Rosa had already stated that the documents are not fake.

Highlights of the 1st Hearing

- Senator Dela Rosa stated that the investigation aims to pinpoint policy gaps—both administrative and legislative—and to uncover how supposedly classified and confidential documents were leaked.
- Senator Escudero raised certain points of order and emphasized that the investigation should focus solely on verifying the authenticity of the documents and identifying the individual who leaked them. Discussions about the individuals mentioned in the documents should be treated as a separate matter.
- Former PDEA agent Jonathan Morales claimed that there was an attempt to prevent him from attending the second Senate public hearing, and he named several individuals who allegedly tried to block his participation.
- Actress Maricel Soriano denied any knowledge of the documents purportedly issued by the PDEA that allegedly linked her to illegal drug activities. She

acknowledged, however, that she owned the property mentioned in the documents until 2012.

Possible Points for Discussion

Each of the following issues requires a comprehensive approach to not only address the current incident but also to prevent similar occurrences in the future:

1. *Security and Confidentiality*: Investigating how the leak occurred and identifying vulnerabilities in the current system that allowed sensitive information to become public. This includes examining the protocols for handling classified documents.
2. *Authenticity of the Documents*: Determining whether the leaked documents are genuine and, if so, assessing the implications of the information contained within them.
3. *Accountability*: Identifying the individuals responsible for the leak and understanding their motives. This includes not only the leaker but also any organizational failures that permitted the leak.
4. *Impact on Operations*: Evaluating how the leaks have affected ongoing operations, particularly in terms of compromising the safety of operatives and the integrity of ongoing investigations.
5. *Legal and Ethical Considerations*: Reviewing the legal implications of the leak for those involved and assessing whether any laws were violated in handling the leaked information.
6. *Public Trust and Image*: Addressing the erosion of public trust in PDEA and in other involved institutions, and formulating a strategy to restore confidence in these organizations.
7. *Data Protection and Privacy*: Strengthening data protection measures to prevent future leaks and ensuring that privacy rights are respected in the handling of sensitive information.
8. *Policy and Legislative Changes*: Considering the need for changes in policies or legislation to enhance security protocols, protect whistleblowers, and prevent future breaches.
9. *Whistleblower Protections*: Discussing the protections available to whistleblowers and whether these need to be enhanced to encourage the reporting of wrongdoing within organizations without fear of reprisal.